

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
February 6, 2015

Dates to Remember:

February 9, 2015 – City Commission Workshop

February 12, 2015 – City Commission Workshop

February 16, 2015 – City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- Westco Builders of Fort Myers has installed a new generator and transfer switch at the Sweetwater Place Apartments on West Ventura Avenue. This will provide emergency power for the special needs residents.
- In preparation for the Hendry County Fair, a preliminary fire/safety inspection at the Fairgrounds was completed this week. Fair staff was informed of a few minor corrections to be completed in time for the opening on Friday, February 13th. The Hendry County Fair parade will be held on Saturday, February 14th at 2:00 p.m.
- Director Reese spent part of Monday with Code Enforcement walking through mobile home parks, to aid with identifying potential code violations.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- Excel classes continue in the Library.
- The two programs sponsored by the Clewiston Inn and the Friends of the Clewiston Library went very well. Nearly 40 persons attended the Abe Lincoln program and the Friends of the Library group raised over \$1,000.
- The annual One-Book-One Community Program, sponsored by Walmart, will celebrate unsung heroes who are involved in the lives of the disabled in our community. The book for this year is Sharon Draper's *Out of my Mind*. People to be honored could be care givers, instructors, or others who assist the disabled. If you know any such person, please refer them to the Clewiston Public Library 863-983-1493. The recognition program will be on 2/26/2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Clewiston Library and will be a joint program with the LaBelle Library.
- Our African American History Month program will be held on 2/23/15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library. African American students selected by our schools will be honored.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Following an investigation, Javier Crespo was charged and is being held in the Hendry County Jail for two strong arm robberies which occurred earlier in the year.

- Code Enforcement and Patrol have partnered to work on blighted areas within the community. Issues ranging from trash to illegal parking, all the way through loitering and trespass, are being tackled. Early results look promising. This week alone we began the process for filing more than 200 Code Enforcement violations in these areas. Those cases should begin to take a huge jump in numbers as they are processed in the coming weeks.
- All three January fishing tournaments came off without incident from a law enforcement perspective.
- Domestic disturbance and driver's license issues seem to be the leading cause of our activity this week.
- Following is a brief numerical synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1343** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 611** Complaints Investigated
 - 21** Arrests Made
 - 30** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 17** Traffic Warnings Issued
 - 12** Code/Ordinance Violations Issued
 - 57** Merchant Escorts
 - 13** Alarms Responded To
 - 1** Traffic Accident Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Public Works Director Scheffler completed the required training for CEUs in Public Health. He is scheduled to meet with Clarke Mosquito Control this month and put together this season's treatment plan.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff painted yellow & white street markings on South Deane Duff between US27 and Ventura. (2) Staff removed dead trees and power washed park benches in the Civic Park. (3) Thanks to the Garden Club for donating new plant material for the monument area in the park. Staff has removed the old material and prepping the ground for new plantings.
- Building Maintenance: (1) Staff is getting the assemblies needed to rebuild the lights in the Library ready. This project is being worked on between other assignments. (2) The CPAC Building was painted last week. We will be installing shutters on the windows and an awning over the front door.
- Tree maintenance: The palms on Ponce de Leon and on Circle Drive have been trimmed. This will reduce the amount of debris after a wind event and will keep the area cleaner.
- Canal Maintenance: Clewiston Drainage District personnel were in town removing litter from the waterways last week.

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- The power outage in Harlem which occurred late Monday night, February 3rd, was caused by a car hitting a utility pole. The Electric crew worked through the night to restore power as quickly as possible.
- The Electric crew repaired the traffic light loop at North Francisco and US Highway 27 and have been straightening poles around town this week.

- The Water/Sewer crew completed the water line at the boat basin for the boat docks. The fire hydrant on the corner of Olympia and Trinidad is scheduled for replacement.
- Manny Gomez identified and repaired the problem with the High School scoreboard.
- Roots were removed from the sewer line at John Boy Auditorium.
- The City of Clewiston was the 5th lowest average residential electric rate in 2014 according to the Florida Electric Municipal Association's rate comparison for December. Thirty-nine utilities participate in the survey.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at anytime through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.